



# Pest Detection and Management Programs

Plant Protection and Quarantine

Weekly Notice, April 11, 2005

This "Weekly Notice" is prepared by the Pest Detection and Management Programs (PDMP) to communicate recent important events. These notices and other more detailed program information can be found at:

<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq/ep/reports/>

## Asian Longhorned Beetle (ALB)

### New Jersey

#### Middlesex/Union County Infestation:

As of April 6, 2005, 3,443 trees have been removed from the Middlesex/Union ALB quarantine area. Of those, 502 were infested host trees and 2,941 were high risk exposed host trees. Crews continued removing trees this week in the residential areas of Carteret and in the Avenel section of Woodbridge Township.

Currently, 10 program personnel from USDA APHIS PPQ, NJ Department of Agriculture, NJ Forest Service are performing survey, control and regulatory activities. Nine USDA Forest Service Smokejumpers, along with 15 contracted tree climbers from Bartlett Tree Expert Company, continue to survey trees in the Middlesex/Union ALB quarantine; to date a total of 7,882 trees have been inspected.

Starting the week of April 11, 2005, the New Jersey Department of Agriculture sent letters to residents in Linden who will be having trees removed from their property. Additionally Barry Emens, USDA-APHIS ALB New Jersey Program Director, and Carl Schultz, Director Division of Plant Industry New Jersey Department of Agriculture, will appear on the city's cable access TV station to talk about the ALB Program and to seek the public's continued support in the program's efforts to eradicate this destructive pest from New Jersey.

#### Jersey City Infestation:

Seven program personnel continue to perform survey and regulatory activities in the Jersey City quarantine. As of April 4, a total of 523 trees have been inspected with no signs of ALB infestations.

Tree treatments in the Jersey City ALB quarantine are slated to begin April 18, with approximately 900 trees to be treated.

### New York

Program staff personnel made preparations for tree treatments that were slated to begin April 13 on Long Island using the Arborjet Trunk Injection application system. Soil treatments were to also begin on April 13, on a limited basis in Manhattan as well. The start date for full production in Manhattan, Brooklyn, and Queens is April 18. Approximately 78,200 trees are to be treated: 35,500 in Brooklyn; 19,400 in Queens; 18,400 in Manhattan; and 4,900 on Long Island.

Protocols are still being refined for the soil treatment application method to be used in New York this year. The Davey Tree Expert Company delivered a field demonstration of basal soil injection using a low pressure pump sprayer in NY this week for the ALB program officials and CPHST. This treatment application method looks very promising for operational delivery and is an accepted application method by the state and city cooperators. The goal of the program is to maximize soil treatments throughout Manhattan, Brooklyn, and Queens.

A total of 1,288 trees were surveyed this week. To date, there have been 6,196 infested trees detected in New York. The last infested tree was detected on March 7 in Queens.

Long Island Power Authority (LIPA) is running a front page story on ALB in their April/May newsletter, which is being inserted in the power bills going out to 1.8 million customers on Long Island (Nassau and Suffolk Counties). LIPA has also put an ALB link on their website and is coordinating a press event, highlighting the ALB Program, slated for April 26.

On March 27, Joe Gittleman, Co-Director of the NY ALB Program, spoke about the up coming tree treatment on the Ralph Snodsmith's nationally syndicated radio show "Garden Hotline."



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## Illinois

As of April 1, a total of 35,299 trees have been surveyed for the year with no signs of ALB infestations.

Program staff personnel are concentrating their efforts in preparation for the start of the 2005 chemical treatments. Projected start date is April 18 with approximately 4,000 trees to be treated around Chicago's Oz Park.

Planning continues for ALB Deregulation Signing Ceremony/press event with Chicago's Department of Streets and Sanitation Commissioner, local Alderman from areas in the deregulated zone, APHIS and State officials. The event is scheduled to be held at the Ravenswood Pilgrim Lutheran Church and School April 21 at 1:30 p.m.

**Source: Christine Markham**

## Mexican Fruit Fly

Lower Rio Grande Valley, Texas:  
Effective April 08, 2005, all citrus from Production Zone 2, Hidalgo County Texas, East of FM Road 2894 and West of Highway 281, must be treated using the approved treatments listed in CFR 301.64, and be certified by PPQ officials prior to shipment to other citrus producing areas.

Production zone one became regulated on March 07, 2005.

Production zone four became regulated March 24, 2005  
Production zone five became regulated on April 01, 2005

The Rio Grande Valley is divided into five citrus production zones. Each is trapped at the density of five traps per square mile, and 30 million sterile flies are released weekly over commercial and urban hosts in production zones 1-5.

Production Zone 3 remains free from general infestation.

**Source: William Harkins**

## Soybean Rust

A weekly National Soybean Rust Conference Call for various stakeholders was convened April 13, 2005 at 1:00 PM. Another national stakeholder conference call is planned for April 13, 2005, at 1 PM. More than 35 participants representing USDA, APHIS, ARS, CSREES, and industry were present on the call.

Marion county (another new county from Florida) has reported soybean rust on Kudzu. This county is northeast of the other 2 counties from where soybean rust, also on kudzu, was reported earlier in 2005.

USDA/APHIS will be providing funding for surveillance activities for soybean rust in the form of Sentinel Plots and Mobile Teams, as well as support of the USDA soybean rust and mapping websites.

APHIS-PDMP and CPHST are coordinating weekly conference calls with state soybean specialists and sentinel plot leaders. The calls include both state and land grant university personnel. The purpose of the calls is to provide appropriate communication and support for the states in the soybean rust surveillance and information management efforts. The southern region had their first call on Monday April 11 and the Northern Regions will have their first call on April 19. For more details contact Roger Magarey at (919) 855-7537.

USDA/CSREES is organizing a meeting in St. Louis, MO, on May 03, 2005, regarding soybean rust scenario training. The purpose of the meeting is to test how state specialists provide management guidelines to growers under different soybean rust epidemic scenarios. Approximately 50 people are expected to attend the meeting including state departments of agriculture, universities, and several USDA agencies.

**Source: Anwar Rizvi**

## P. ramorum

On April 13, Dr. DeHaven, Paul Eggert, Jonathon Jones, Phil Berger and Jim Writer met with representatives of the Oregon Association of Nurseries (OAN). OAN



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asked for the meeting to discuss several topics of interest and concern to the association. These were:

Possible false positives reported by our NPGBL at Beltsville:

- Assurance that we were coordinating a comprehensive national survey
- APHIS support of a national nursery certification program

APHIS was able to address their concerns and issues.

Jim Writer presented an update on the *P. ramorum* program to the Southern Plant Board on April 12.

We anxiously await the approval of our CCC request. Actual survey and the needed supporting functions – methods development, training, outreach – will be severely impacted without the additional funds.

California reports 11 positive nurseries were found during its Federal Order compliance surveys. Several are production and wholesale nurseries that were positive last year.

California also reports 18 trace forward positives from a Los Angeles County production nursery and one trace back positive nursery. California has instituted regulatory action at these facilities and has or is gathering trace forward data.

CDFA reports that following completion of the confirmed nursery protocol, Los Angeles County released the production nursery from hold and reinstated its compliance agreement. The company was able to start shipping interstate on March 30.

ODA reports more than 1000 (50%-60%) Oregon nurseries have been inspected with three positives found. One Clackamas County nursery was confirmed on April 4. It is a production and wholesale facility. ODA has taken regulatory action and has begun delimiting surveys. Oregon also reported 2 trace forward positives in residential setting and a positive in

a small retailer. Both residential finds originated at a nursery found positive in 2004.

On April 8, APHIS' National Plant Germplasm and Biotechnology Lab in Beltsville confirmed the presence of *P. ramorum* in a sample collected from a jasmine plant in Oregon. Jasmine is not on the APHIS *P. ramorum* host or associated host list. The plant, which appeared symptomatic during an inspection of a non-host nursery, was submitted to ODA for testing. DNA samples were forwarded from ODA to Beltsville. The sample is nested and real time PCR positive and sequencing of the DNA appears to confirm the finding; ODA has not been able to culture *P. ramorum*. Because this is an initial find in a new species, ODA, APHIS and others are working to further confirm this positive report. In the meantime ODA will implement regulatory action at the facility based on the positive test in Beltsville. .

PPQ CPHST has provisionally approved 2 labs to conduct nested PCR testing on *P. ramorum* samples. They are the Washington State Department of Agriculture and the USDA Agriculture Marketing Service at Gastonia, North Carolina. CPHST has begun the approval process at 13 other labs and 9 more are in the queue.

**Source: James Writer**

## Gypsy Moth

During the week of April 4, 2005, the Pest Detection and Management Program program manager for gypsy moth (GM) met with Russian officials to establish the Cooperative Agreements for 2005, that provide APHIS with trap data from ports in the Russian far east. The gypsy moth trap data allows APHIS to determine the flight period for the moth, and enables identification of ships that represent risk for transporting egg masses to U.S. shores. Two separate Cooperative Agreements are in force; one with the Russian Center for Forest Health which provides trap data from forests surrounding port facilities, and the other with the Russian Research Institute of Plant Quarantine (RRIPQ) which provides APHIS with data from traps placed inside port



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properties. APHIS furnishes the trapping supplies for these efforts. Under the Agreement with the RRIPQ the Russian agency provides predeparture GM inspection and certification to ships destined for U.S. ports. The GM prevalent in the Russian far east is the Asian phenotype which is not established in North America. The Cooperative Agreements include the USDA Forest Service as co-signatory. The logistics for the meetings and a reception event were facilitated by the indispensable assistance of the USDA Foreign Agriculture Service in Moscow.

Four of 264 gypsy moth specimens captured in 2004 from Minnesota that were analyzed by the PPQ Center for Plant Health Science and Technology methods lab at Otis, MA were found to have DNA characteristics that are found in Asian bio-types of the moth. However, other DNA characteristics of these four specimens did not match completely the Asian bio-types currently available in the CPHST DNA library for the species. The origin and categorization of these four moths remain uncertain at this point. In 2005, APHIS will implement an intensified trapping program in the area where the 4 specimens were captured to monitor the situation and obtain additional specimens if they are present. The Asian biotype of the gypsy moth has a greater host range than the North American Gypsy Moth (NAGM), and can spread more rapidly due to the capacity of the female to fly long distances compared to the flightless female of the NAGM.

**Source: Weyman Fussell**